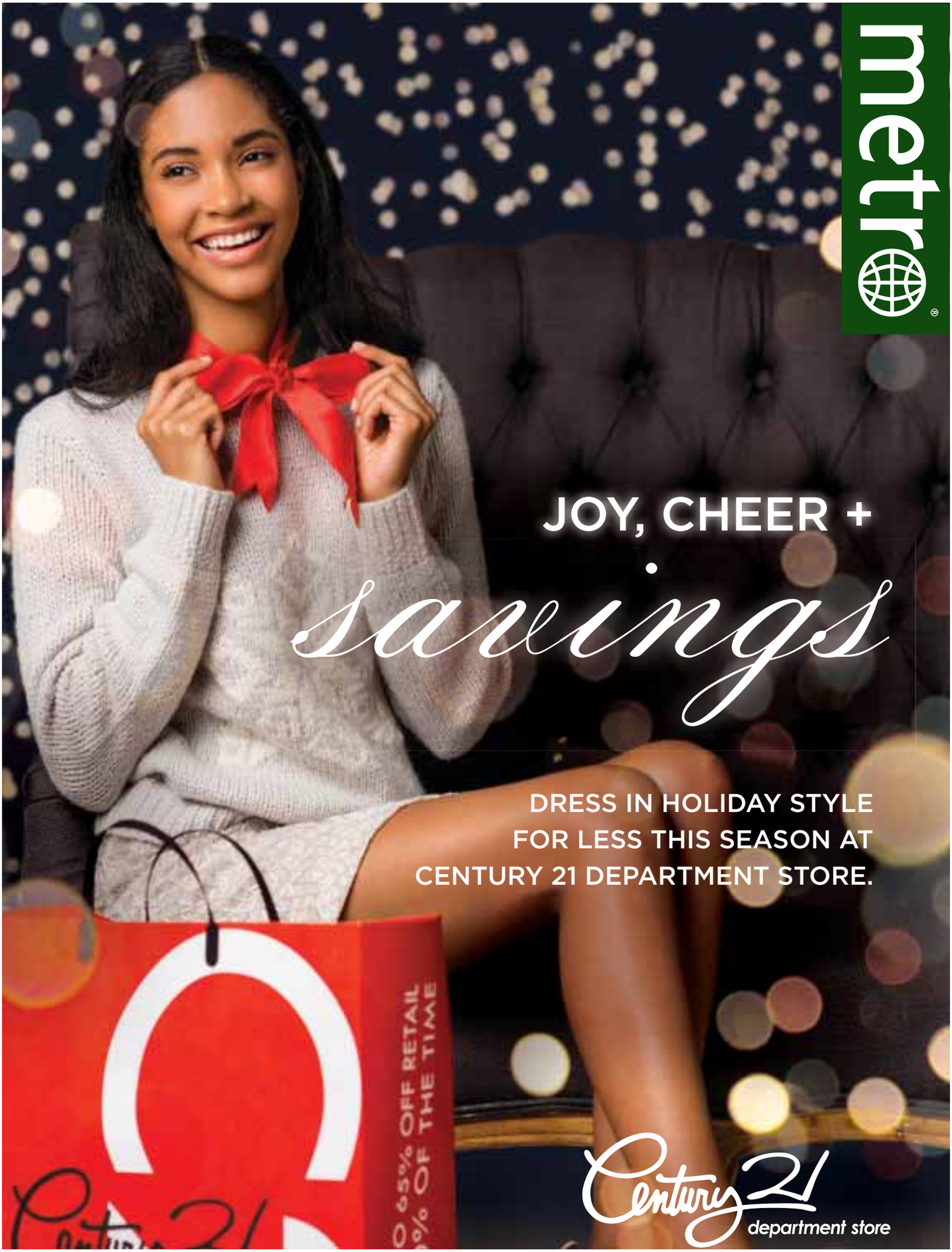
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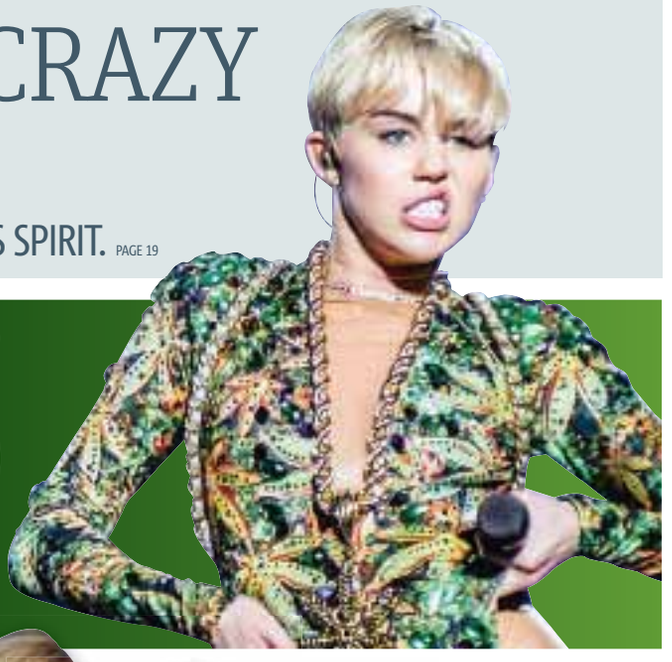
SHE'S WORN SOME CRAZY OUTFITS, BUT THIS?

LOOK INSIDE TO SEE HOW MILEY GETS IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. PAGE 19



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Where's the buzz?

Awards. Somehow this year's Best Actress Oscar race has wound up with too few obvious frontrunners. We round up some suggestions for who could fill the ranks. Sorry, Megan Fox didn't make the list. PAGE 16

Julianne Moore may be the front-runner, but what about some nomination love for these gals? / GETTY IMAGES

NYPD pledges to retrain 22K cops

PAGE 02

Fast-food workers march for a living wage

PAGE 04

Stream these this slow movie weekend

PAGE 18

Giants in Tennessee still looking for a 'W'

PAGE 22

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'PHOTOS: Protesters take over New York City streets following grand jury's decision for Eric Garner case'

2 '2014: The year in entertainment (PHOTOS)'

3 'What to watch at home this slow movie weekend'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Police man a barricade near City Hall on Thursday. At right, a police officer outside City Hall. / CARLOS LLAMAS /METRO

NYPD to retrain 22K after Garner's death

Police. Street officers will undergo three-day training course to improve policing.

New York City plans to retrain all 22,000 of the NYPD's patrol officers in the wake of a grand jury's decision not to indict a cop who killed unarmed Staten Island man Eric Garner with a chokehold, Mayor Bill De Blasio and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said at the police academy Thursday.

The three-day training course for all officers will cover the foundations of policing. It will also include so-called smart policing techniques and tactical skills that teach cops the best way to handle events like the confrontation with Garner, which began as a simple arrest for loitering.

"The way we go about policing has to change," de Blasio said. "Every interaction that every officer has with their fellow New Yorkers after they are trained again will be different. And that will multiply many years over, for years and years to come. And a whole new generation of officers will be trained with a new approach."

Rashad Robinson, of CopWatchNYC, said cops need to be more closely involved in the communities they patrol and understand "who people are, what their challenges are and what their hopes are."

Real change can only come if the NYPD changes the way it trains police leaders, not just cops on the street, said Dr. Maria Haberfeld, chair of the department of law and police science at John Jay College.

"If you are not recruiting and selecting the right people, no matter how much or what kind of training you're going to give them, it's not going to be effective," said Haberfeld.

"Policing is a profession filled with many types of temptations, whether it's the excessive use of force or corruption for gain," she said. "And you really have to be very clear about what kind of characteristics you want in a person who is exposed to all of these temptations. And when things happen, there also has to be proper discipline."

On Wednesday, de Blasio announced a plan to equip patrol officers with shirtfront video cameras.

DAN BUYANOVSKY
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the aftermath of the Garner case.

Quoted.

"If you are not recruiting and selecting the right people, no matter how much or what kind of training you're going to give them, it's not going to be effective."
Haberfeld

Crime

Second suspect arrested in Diamond District heist

Leon Fenner, 58, appeared before a federal magistrate in Maryland on Thursday. He worked in tandem with Rondu Frisby to rob a 47th Street jeweler in early November, making off with $600,000 to $2 million in jewelry and cash.

Frisby was arrested on November 18 and charged with robbery and drug possession.

Fenner's arrest, confirmed by the U.S. Attorney's office in New York, was the result of the suspect leaving three fingerprints at the scene of the crime. METRO

Homicide

Queens boxer arrested for stabbing, killing girlfriend

Trevis Hall, a 28-year-old boxer, was arrested for murdering his former girlfriend, Margarita Rivera, police said.

Rivera, 31, was stabbed multiple times in the head and chest on the afternoon of Dec. 1 and pronounced dead at Jamaica Hospital. METRO

Garner case. Staten Island DA releases grand jury details

As street protests continued for a second night after a grand jury declined to indict Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner, Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan said Thursday the grand jury heard from 50 witnesses over a nine-week period, including police and medical personnel.

Attorney General Eric Holder promised a full investigation of Garner's death, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he'll push to change police practice and the grand jury system during the upcoming legislative session. In an interview on "The Capitol Pressroom," Cuomo called the Garner case "corrosive to society."

Donovan / RCDA.NYC.GO

Mayor Bill de Blasio and NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton announced plans to retrain police officers in Queens. Bratton said on a morning radio show that jurors shouldn't be criticized for returning a decision not to indict Pantaleo based on evidence the rest of the world hasn't seen.

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Pat Lynch called Pantaleo a "mature" and "model" officer, and slammed De Blasio for saying children are afraid of police.

"That's not true," Lynch said. "All our sons and daughters walk the streets in safety because of police officers. They should be afraid of the criminals."

New York's protests have been peaceful so far, and civic leaders say they doubt they'll see the violence that swept Ferguson, Missouri, last week after a grand jury there declined to indict officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown.

"It's not the same place, so it's understandable," said Councilman Jumaane Williams of Brooklyn. "I always prefer things to be constructive, I don't encourage the destruction of property, but I don't think it needs to be business as usual."

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

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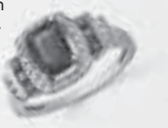

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Fast-food workers walk out

Minimum-wage employees took to the streets to demand better wages.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Fast-food and airport workers marched on City Hall on Thursday morning, joining minimum-wage workers across the country who want $15 an hour and the right to unionize.

Around 11 a.m., they marched into a McDonald's on Chambers Street and Greenwich Avenue, then headed east while a marching band played and 32 BJ members sounded vuvuzelas. In September, Mayor Bill de Blasio ordered some city contractors to pay workers $13.13 an hour. President Obama wants Congress to raise the national minimum wage to $10.10.

Kevin Durand, 18
Employer: McDonald's
Hourly wage: $8

"Every week I gotta borrow money, but that's how it goes for me. You can't have a car, you cannot have your own apartment working at McDonald's. I live with my mother, we go half and half ... I can't believe I'm getting paid for this, especially when I'm getting burned (in the kitchen.) I can't believe I just got burned for $8 an hour. It just sucks. My life sucks right now."

Naquasia LeGrand, 23
Employer: KFC
Hourly wage: $8, 15-20 hours week, $130-180

"In the last two years, New York went from $7.25 to $8, which is not enough but it shows that if people stick together, we can make changes. My biggest struggle is basically trying to keep up with rent, different bills, transportation, because everything is going up but my wage."

Santiago Walbert, 34
Employer: LaGuardia Airport
Hourly wage: $10

"Ten dollars [an hour] cannot support myself. I have six kids, and I'm a single father. If I got at least $18 an hour I could support my kids. I'm happy that my parents are alive because they're the ones helping me out."

"McDonald's and our independent franchisees support paying our valued employees fair wages aligned with a competitive marketplace. Any minimum-wage increase should be implemented over time so that the impact on owners of small- and medium-size businesses — like the ones who own and operate the majority of our restaurants — is manageable."

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**Source: Bloomberg, figures are for McDonalds Corp.*

Alvin Major, 49
Employer: KFC
Hourly wage: $8

"If you're living in New York City, one of the most expensive cities in the world, and working 40 hours, you're supposed to be able to take care of your family and pay your bills. Fifteen dollars would put me in a position where I'm able to pay all my bills, pay my rent on time, send my kids to good schools, college. I don't take my family no where; we have to live on government assistance."

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Protesters take over Foley Square

Thousands of demonstrators took part in a protest at Foley Square following Wednesday's decision by a Staten Island grand jury not to indict a police officer who used a chokehold in the death of Eric Garner in July. The protest was one of several Thursday night. / GETTY IMAGES

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A CAPITOL TREE FOR DC GOODWILL

After making what must have been a pretty interesting 1,300-mile journey, the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree went up this week, towering above admiring tourists and glowing members of Congress. (Note to Congressional dining staff: Go easy on the free mulled cider — don't need our lawmakers glowing too much, if you know what I mean.) It's an 88-foot-tall white spruce, so I assume it wasn't roped to the top of a Subaru, but who knows how budget cuts are hitting these days, right?

We do know this: It came from the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota, which was established by Teddy Roosevelt more than 100 years ago.

In legend, that area was home to the giant woodsman, Paul Bunyan. And as Senator Amy Klobuchar noted, "It would actually take more than four Paul Bunyan statues to reach the star on that tree."

The Department of Agriculture, which doesn't get a lot of buzz around this town, seems thrilled to have a role in this whole shindig, so an official from their office came over to note that the Chippewa forest "contains 400,000 acres of wetlands and lakes and provides habitats for Canada lynx, Sandhill cranes and the largest breeding population of bald eagles in the lower 48." I don't know how you can tell a breeding population of eagles from a nonbreeding one, but I would guess you look for smiles.

It all started in 1963, with a much smaller, live tree. That one survived for several years before it was unceremoniously shredded by a windstorm, and cut trees became the norm. Over the years, like everything else in D.C., they've grown bigger and bigger.

Anyway, this tree never gets as much attention as the one near the White House that the president lights. But for my taste, I like this ceremony better: A foggy night, a few hundred folks, a flick of the switch, and colored light pours down on a handful of lawmakers talking about peace and goodwill outside the Capitol, even if there is precious little inside these days.

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

CNN • POLITICS

Quoted

"Anyway, this tree never gets as much attention as the one near the White House that the president lights."

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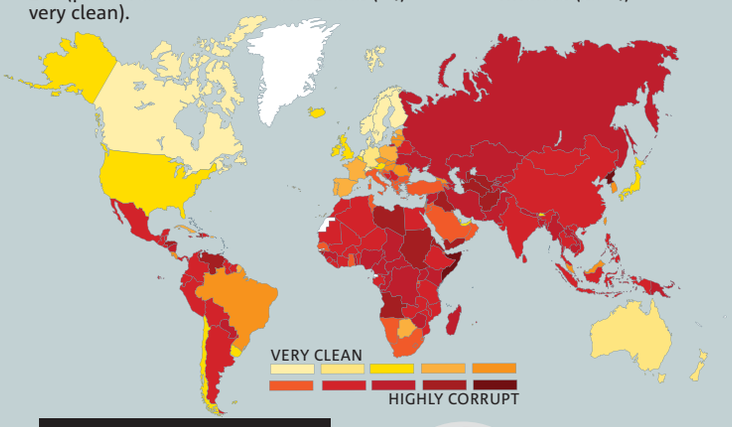
Which countries are the most corrupt?

Denmark is the least corrupt country in the world, according to the 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International. The European nation is a paragon of anti-graft measures, yet more than two-thirds of the countries surveyed scored below 50 on a 100-point scale.

50
More than two-thirds of the 175 countries in the 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index score below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

+5
The biggest improvers were Cote d´Ivoire, Egypt, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (+5), Afghanistan, Jordan, Mali and Swaziland (+4).

-5
The scores of several countries rose or fell by four points or more. The biggest declines were in Turkey (-5), Angola, China, Malawi and Rwanda (all -4)



10 MOST CORRUPT COUNTRIES

1. SOMALIA
2. NORTH KOREA
3. SUDAN
4. AFGHANISTAN
5. SOUTH SUDAN
6. IRAQ
7. TURKMENISTAN
8. UZBEKISTAN
9. LIBYA
10. ERITREA

10 LEAST CORRUPT COUNTRIES

1. DENMARK
2. NEW ZEALAND
3. FINLAND
4. SWEDEN
5. NORWAY
6. SWITZERLAND
7. SINGAPORE
8. NETHERLANDS
9. LUXEMBOURG
10. CANADA
17. UNITED STATES

68% of countries in the Americas score below 50 out of 100

64% of Asia Pacific countries score below 50 out of 100

95% of Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries score below 50 out of 100

16% of EU and West Europe countries score below 50 out of 100

84% of Middle East and North Africa countries score below 50 out of 100

92% of Sub-Saharan Africa countries score below 50 out of 100

SOURCE: TRANSPARENCYINTERNATIONAL
TEXT: DANIEL CASILLAS / GRAPHIC: NANCY MACEDO / MWN

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OMG. Lose yourself in virtual reality in another person's life

The 22-year-old, whose project takes place in a gallery, will have no interaction with any other human being save one hour per day with a psychologist. / SEEING-I

An artist is using virtual reality to experience life through another person's eyes and ears. "The Seeing-I project is a social-artistic experiment that questions how much of the individual is an inherent personality and how large a portion of the individual is a cultural identity," explains the Londoner on his Kickstarter page. Mark Farid tells Metro why Seeing-I "will help us understand the ways in which technology has and is affecting us."

How did you come up with the experiment?
This social-artistic experiment was born when I was thinking about what makes you, you. I don't think any of the realities in which we live are genuine. We take physical reality as "real," but every building, road, park and garden has been designed. For example, trees are planted with the express goals of pertaining to position, pollution and colors. Everything within our existence is not natural, so I wanted to explore something different.

Why will you be doing it for exactly 28 days?
Due to the amount of current documentation stipulating that we lose and develop habits after three weeks, I have decided that four weeks is an adequate time frame to give an indication of how these new habits are adopted.

Have you done something like this before?
The closest I've come to this is trying to stay awake for 101 hours … so not really. But I'm incredibly frustrated about how long it's taken getting to this point, and yet there is still a lot further to go until the Seeing-I happens. It looks like an endurance test... This is not. If my crew feel that it is going too far and it could harm me, then I will have to take off the virtual reality headset. Anyway, I have to prepare: Currently, I'm undergoing sessions with a psychologist.

Whose life will you be living?
I know nothing of this person, other than that he is a heterosexual male over the age of 21 who is living with his wife or girlfriend. I call him "The Other."

How will you eat?
I will eat at the same time as "The Other" but in the physical world.

DMITRY BELYAEV, MWN

Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

Question

What equipment will you use?

A virtual reality headset. But this will probably change, depending on what tech is available on the market at the time. There definitely will be bespoke "spy" glasses with digital lenses and two binder microphones built in.

Question

Why are you not to have contact with anyone else?

The only contact will be with a psychologist for one hour a day, where I will still be wearing the VR headset and headphones, and I will be speaking to him through the headphones — it will act more as a verbal diary though.

For 28 days, Mark Farid will be living his life through a person whose day-to-day existence and conversations will be streamed via an Oculus Rift headset. / SEEING-I

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Major LIRR construction this weekend.

Please allow for extra travel time due to East Side Access signal installation work.

December 5 – 8
10 PM Friday to 5 AM Monday

Long Island Rail Road customers traveling to and from New York City this weekend should prepare for possible train delays and service disruptions during an important phase of the East Side Access construction project.

What's Happening?

- Two of four East River Tunnels connecting Queens to Manhattan and Penn Station will be closed.
- Workers will begin installing a new computerized signal system that will control train travel through Harold Interlocking – the nation's busiest commuter rail intersection.
- When the entire project is complete, East Side Access will speed up travel for Long Islanders by taking them to Grand Central Terminal and the East Side of Manhattan for the first time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to complete this improvement in the shortest time possible. For the latest project and service delay information, download the free **LIRR Train Time® app**, call **511** and say "LIRR" or visit **mta.info/lirr**.

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The three winners of the 2014 Metro Photo Challenge will take part in a photography trip that will include capturing the beautiful city scenery and soaking up the bustling atmosphere. They'll also enjoy a special guided photo experience to capture the nature of big-city living.

The photographs the winners take during their expedition will be published in Metro editions the world over, giving the winning photographers the worldwide recognition they deserve.

MPC by the numbers

8
weeks of competition

36,500
participants

128K+
photos submitted

800K+
visits

Metro Photo Challenge was introduced 10 years ago in Sweden and ran globally for the first time in 2007.

MPC aims to connect people around the world through the universal language of photography and to reward outstanding photographers through local recognition and global prizes.

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Health notes

Bowel problems helped by self-acupressure

Are you among the estimated 19 percent of people in North America suffering from some kind of bowel issue? A recent UCLA study found a drug-free method that helped a majority of participants.

Researchers focused on the effectiveness of perineal self-acupressure, which involves putting pressure on the area between the anus and genitals. They gave about 100 participants just three to five minutes of instruction in a technique aimed to break up hard stools, relax muscles and stimulate bowel movements.

There's a drug-free way to get relief. / FUSE

Almost three-quarters of patients reported that it helped improve their condition and trigger a bowel movement. Over half also said it provided hemorrhoid relief.

A bad marriage really can break your heart

We've all heard the expression "dying of a broken heart," but a study of older couples and cardiovascular health found this may actually be true.

Most notably, the quality of a marriage appears to affect women's heart health more than men's. What's more is that heart disease also impacts marriage quality for female spouses, but not for men.

The Michigan State University study also found that an unsatisfying marriage has a bigger impact on health than a good one benefits well-being. **MARIANNE HAYES**

What if you could know your newborn's future?

Genetic testing. New parents want a glimpse into the medical crystal ball.

Both moms and dads favored expanded genetic testing at birth. INGRAM PUBLISHING

The birth of a child is already a highly emotional time for parents. So would they want to add the knowledge of their newborn's full genetic potential to their list of joys and worries?

A new study says yes — but not all parents.

"Several other studies have measured parents' interest in newborn genomic screening, but none focused on new parents in the first 48 hours," says senior author Dr. Robert C. Green, a geneticist and researcher at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. "Since this is when genomic testing would be of the greatest value, it is especially important to study parents' attitudes immediately postpartum."

As genetic testing becomes a routine part of clinical care, and the scope of the information that genome sequencing yields increases, researchers and doctors are gauging interest in going beyond existing mandatory genetic screening done shortly after birth.

Current mandatory tests include 21 conditions (though some states test for as many as 30) affecting metabolism, blood disorders and other complications that could pose a short- or long-term threat to the newborn's health and development.

The study is the first to examine new parents' attitudes toward genetic testing through a survey of 514 parents of healthy babies within 48 hours of their birth at Brigham and Women's Hospital. It found that if the service is available, both parents (surveyed separately) expressed interest regardless of their backgrounds: 82.7 percent said they were somewhat (36 percent), very (28 percent) or extremely (18 percent) interested in newborn genomic testing.

Only one group of parents was less likely to favor genetic screening: those with pre-existing concerns about their baby's health.

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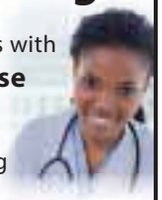

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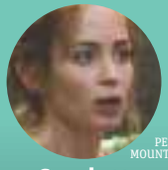
2 CULTURE

Might we also recommend

Emily Blunt, 'Into the Woods'

It might be tough to single out anyone in this sprawling ensemble as a "lead," but Blunt comes closest as the Baker's Wife. And she's a standout in that big cast, holding her own against Meryl Streep, even.



PETER MOUNTAIN

Scarlett Johansson, 'Under the Skin'

If the Academy wanted to play things a little riskier, it could recognize the "Avengers" star's transformative — and sometimes silent — work in Jonathan Glazer's hypnotic and eerie science-fiction thriller.

A24

Why is the Best Actress Oscar race weak this year?

Film. A look at how the thinnest race in recent memory is shaping up.

The Oscar race this year is already something of a head-scratcher, and right at the center of it is a surprisingly light field of Best Actress contenders. Despite a clear front-runner — Julianne Moore for her devastating performance in "Still Alice," which comes with the alarming fact that she hasn't already won an Oscar — the category is looking a bit thin. And while that's more a commentary on the state of film and lead roles for women this year, it doesn't mean there aren't enough outstanding performances out there to make this race interesting. Here's a look at the contenders.

NED EHRBAR
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The shoo-in

Julianne Moore, 'Still Alice'

Seriously, Moore's toughest acting job now is continuing to be surprised each time she nabs a trophy between now and Feb. 22. She's basically this year's McConaughey.

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The strong possibilities

DAWN JONES

Hilary Swank, 'The Homesman'

Despite owning two Oscars (for "Boys Don't Cry" and "Million Dollar Baby"), Swank has wound up searching for that comeback vehicle to bring her a third trophy for a while now. This one comes close, but maybe voters just aren't in the mood for a gritty frontier drama this year, even a crazy one directed by and co-starring Tommy Lee Jones.

CINELOU RELEASING

Jennifer Aniston, 'Cake'

Some have dismissed Aniston's turn in this indie — as a divorcee who gets involved with a hallucinating widower (Sam Worthington) — as little more than makeup-free stunt-casting. But despite the shocking sight of her abstaining from makeup, the actress shows off some impressive dramatic chops — which anyone who's seen "The Good Girl" or "Friends with Money" already knew she had.

The sure-thing nominations

FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Reese Witherspoon, 'Wild'

Previous winner Witherspoon turns in a solidly harrowing performance in "Wild," but it falls just short of the mark.

LIAM DANIEL, FOCUS FEATURES

Felicity Jones, 'The Theory of Everything'

It took some time for critics to see past the brilliance of her co-star — and another shoo-in nominee — Eddie Redmayne, but Jones should be recognized as well for her stellar work as theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking's first wife, Jane.

MERRICK MORTON

Rosamund Pike, 'Gone Girl'

People might have come for a glimpse at Ben Affleck's junk, but they stayed for Pike's surprising, chilly performance. Some of us, though, have been boosters of the English actress for years, so there.

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Review

'Wild'

Director: Jean-Marc Vallee

Stars: Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern

Rating: R

Reese Witherspoon heads onto the trail in "Wild." / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Walking movie. Reese Witherspoon gets her best role in ages as she hikes through 'Wild'

Reese Witherspoon steps into the tattered hiking shoes of Cheryl Strayed, who in the '90s trawled some 1,000 miles solo in an attempt to get over personal tragedies and some terrible life decisions.

The lowdown: For a movie about someone walking, "Wild" is awfully busy. Flashbacks are everywhere, memories lurking around every tree or stretch of arid desert. When the narration track isn't filled with her grumbling, Strayed is talking out loud to herself.

None of this is a complaint, mind you. This is a film where the past really is as important as the present. The reasons for Strayed's mega-jaunt are doled out gradually. She's working her way through a tower of pain: the passing, via cancer, of her beloved sparkplug of a mother (Laura Dern); a failed marriage; a streak of self-destruction in which she wallowed in drugs and dirty sex.

This sounds Hallmarky, but "Wild" comes off tough, rough and funny. When she started out, Witherspoon was a thrilling, electric performer. She tried the glamorous Hollywood thing, but her gifts were meant for small and personable films like this, especially ones that tapped into the actress' innate short fuse. Strayed may have noble, life-reaffirming intentions, but she's a total grump, one who greets every obstacle, major and minor, with profound irritation. It's less about a journey than a character study of a strong character — or, as it happens, characters. Dern, as Strayed's mom, is as rich and thrilling as Strayed — an abused wife who transformed, as her daughter wishes to, into a different person. Always smiling, effervescent and endearingly fumbling, Dern is the kind of supporting character whose absence is always felt. She and Witherspoon are so good together it's easy to ignore that Dern is only nine years her screen daughter's senior.

MATT PRIGGE

Review

'Miss Julie'

Colin Farrell isn't sure he wants to get with Jessica Chastain's Miss Julie. / WRECKIN HILL

August Strindberg's classic study of the class battle between a bored aristo and a family servant gets another film adaptation, with Jessica Chastain lusting for Colin Farrell's social climber.

The lowdown: Directed by actress, filmmaker and Ingmar Bergman confidant Liv Ullmann, this is a quietly (and sometimes loudly) chaotic work — problematic but searingly angry. It doesn't update the play (though it does relocate it to Ireland), but it is meant to remind us of the even wider gap between rich and poor that exists today.

For better and worse, Ullmann doesn't try to rein her actors in. Chastain is encouraged to go lusty and earthy, especially in the final stretch, when Miss Julie loses it. Chastain has never gone this loose cannon before, and you can sense a private thrill in her not caring how precise she is, at going wild and getting close to embarrassing herself. What she does is a kind of freedom.

Other times Ullmann's "Miss Julie" is simply spotty. Even at his character's most evil, Farrell seems too sincere — all wide, hurt eyes and panicked line readings. This is a role that should meld his gifts for playing nice guys and jerks, but Farrell keeps getting stuck in nice guy mode, loudly pouting his way through lines that need a rougher edge. It's an unwieldy production, but it will never be confused for "Masterpiece Theatre." It's alive in its many imperfections. MATT PRIGGE

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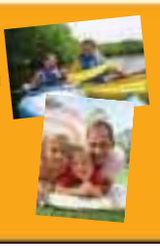

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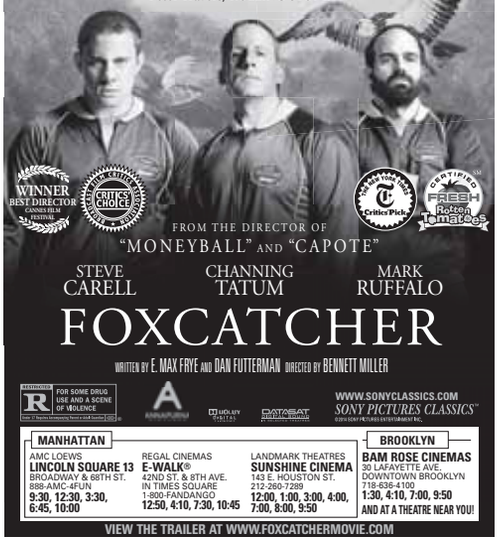

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One slow movie weekend

Good job, Hollywood! For whatever reason, there's only one new film opening nationally this weekend: a horror movie called "The Pyramid." It will be cold and/or rainy, so if you want to curl up at home with something big and possibly stupid, here are some options.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

WARNER BROS.

'Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow'

XFINITY

Now confusingly listed under its catchy tagline instead of its forgettable title, the latest Tom Cruise spectacular is, as it happens, by far the most entertaining Hollywood product of the year — no less than a "Groundhog Day" with aliens. Give it a chance, then spread the word.

'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire'

Netflix Instant

The first half of "Mockingjay" is burning up the box office, but let's be honest: Its calm study of the pains of revolution is not the "Hunger Games" you came to see. If you miss the action and the Ken Russell-esque flamboyance, head online, where the second part still streams.

MURRAY CLOSE

MARVEL

'Marvel's The Avengers'

Netflix Instant

It's pretty weird that there's not presently a Marvel film in theaters. You can always dig through the most supersized of the bunch, in which all the big superheroes (and a few smaller, lesser ones) banded together to fight, was it aliens? Which baddie is being battled and why are never important in these things, though all you really need to know is this is the one where Hulk beats up Loki and Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow comes off as the most bad-ass of the bunch.

'Snowpiercer'

Netflix Instant

Are you feeling ever so slightly adventurous? Now might be time to dial up this South Korean version of a blockbuster, albeit one starring Captain America himself. Chris Evans leads a revolution inside a train rolling around a dystopian Earth, and it's the kind of thriller that's both an angry political polemic and a goofy comedy.

RADIUS TWC

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'Nymphomaniac'

Netflix Instant and iTunes

If you're feeling really, really adventurous, you can tuck into Lars Von Trier's porn epic, which may be his last; the provocateur did announce that he can't make movies sober. If this is the end, it's a good one to leave on — actually funnier than it is sex-drenched. It's that, too, especially in the 5 ½-hour X-rated cut you can now grab on iTunes.

James Bond

Netflix Instant

Every now and then, Netflix teases subscribers with 007 films, then quickly removes them. Right now you can watch "Goldfinger," "From Russia With Love," "For Your Eyes Only," "Skyfall" and a few more. You can even watch the Sean Connery-starring almost-Bond entry "Never Say Never Again."

MGM

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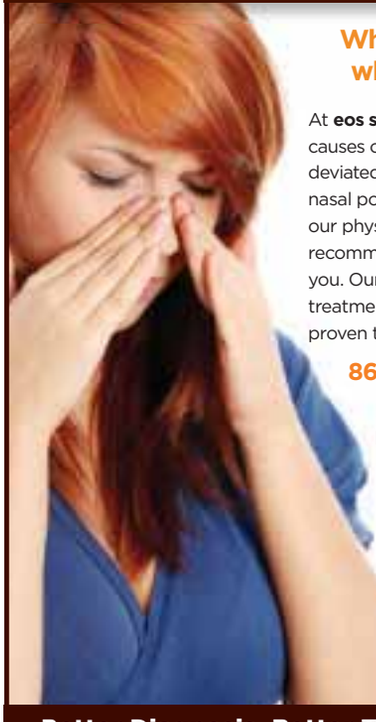

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1 Rachael Ray stays neutral in Paltrow-Stewart War

In the ongoing conflict between lifestyle guru Martha Stewart and self-styled upstart Gwyneth Paltrow, Rachael Ray has decided to be Switzerland. During a visit to "Watch What Happens Live," Ray was pressed to take a side in the dispute and chose to remain neutral. "I'm on team food. I think everybody who likes to eat has a different take on it, and everybody's opinion should be respected," she tells Andy Cohen. "I love Gwyneth Paltrow. I think that she is very devoted to everything she puts her mind to." And Stewart? "I have to have nothing but respect for Martha Stewart. She is a forerunner. I wouldn't have a job without the people who came before me. … Martha Stewart created an avenue for women who work in lifestyle television — period. You have to have respect for all people's opinions ... in my opinion."

Rachael Ray, the food world's Switzerland, is on a peacekeeping mission. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Miley Cyrus gets into the holiday spirit, in her own way

INSTAGRAM, MILEYCYRUS

What would the holidays be without a little tinsel? Or a lot, for that matter. While down in Miami for Art Basel, Miley Cyrus decked her halls with a silver tinsel wig, sheer silver tights and glittery mirror ball pasties — oh, and a silver over-the-shoulder thong, which I didn't know was actually a thing. She performed at the annual event's opening night party, telling the crowd, "You thought this was a respected place where you could escape me?"

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

3 Axl Rose is the latest celebrity death hoax victim

Good news for Guns N' Roses fans! The reports of singer Axl Rose's death have been greatly exaggerated. A fake MSNBC report — much like the recent hoax claiming Macaulay Culkin had perished — went out recently saying Rose, 52, had been found dead in his West Hollywood home. But while totally bogus, the hoax did raise at least one question for the man himself: "If I'm dead, do I still have to pay taxes?" he tweeted. Personally, I'm still reeling from the fact that Axl Rose is 52 now.

DEAD? COME ON, 52 ISN'T THAT OLD.

Daily video

Wes Anderson presents the 'Star Wars' trailer

YOUTUBE, JONAH FEINGOLD

OK, just one more "Star Wars" trailer-related video and then I'll stop. I mean, I realize we still have a full year before the film comes out. But this one is pretty priceless. YouTuber Jonah Feingold reimagines the teaser as done by quirky auteur Wes Anderson ("Rushmore," "The Grand Budapest Hotel"). And the results? C'est magnifique.

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How romantic comedies are failing us

I'm a big movie buff. Movies are an escape from reality, and as such the writers and directors demand one thing from the audience: suspension of disbelief. I have no issue with suspension of disbelief. But for movies set in the real world, what I'm not capable of is suspension of realistic possibility.

Romantic comedies are the lowest common denominator for what I call Offensive Visual Improbabilities. Lots of viewers love them, but what bothers me are three things: the male characters, the female characters and the dynamics between them.

In most rom-coms, men assume one of three roles: The Loner/Drifter/Bad Boy, The Lovable Loser or The Rich Tycoon. As for women, they usually assume the role of The Career Woman, The Caretaker/Savior or The Innocent One. What interests me are the "lessons" the viewer learns — and these examples lead to unconscious expectations.

Here are some examples:

Go figure: "Pretty Woman" sets a bad precedent for realistic relationships. / GETTY IMAGES

Do this:

- When you tell people you love them, make sure you're ready, not just lonely.
- Don't seek their attention — require their respect. It lasts longer.
- Don't tell them you love them, show them. If you can't, move on and let them find love.

The Bad Boy

The Bad Boy, our first archetype, is emotionally unavailable and distant. He shows our heroine his interest in the beginning (getting her hooked), and she spends the remainder of the film convincing him to love her/change his ways/not leave. She finds validation in his decision to love her (or not), to change (or not) and/or to leave (or not).

The Lovable Loser

He's the man with tons of potential — but he isn't really making an effort to achieve anything. Our heroine can see his potential, but he is unwilling to change/learn/grow. Does she leave? Of course not. She puts in more and more and more until he does change — and he changes (wait for it) for her.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

The Rich Tycoon

You know the one. He's great-looking, wealthy, urbane, great in bed, loving — but also broken in some way. She will start out by sacrificing her morals, but then think better of it and break things off. Inevitably, she will discover she was wrong (in true "women are so naive" form) and he will win her over. *yawn*

The female characters in these movies vacillate between various actions and emotions: loving, allowing, angry, bitchy, controlling, accepting, confused. They are usually trying to figure the guy out and understand his motivations, and then adjust their lives to accommodate him.

There's nothing wrong with entertainment or the suspension of disbelief. But this magic formula that shows women over and over how they are the ones who need to constantly adjust and sacrifice who they are for the sake of a relationship is plain wrong.

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Keep anyone trying to persuade you to do something that goes against your morals or beliefs at arm's length.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Business and pleasure will go hand-in-hand. You will make a favorable impression on your peers with your friendly manner.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You will be overtly emotional to remarks or gestures made in your presence. Step away from the situation before a heated discussion breaks out.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Take time to have some fun. Spend the day at a spa, take a hike or listen to music. Time spent alone will ease your nerves.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Your earning potential can increase if you are willing to learn new skills. Take a close look at the qualifications you need.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Difficulties while traveling will be aggravating. Keep a level head during traffic delays or poor weather conditions. It's best to slow down.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Interact with people who appreciate your attributes. Beneficial personal connections will be made if you network.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You can reduce your stress level if you refuse to let others take advantage of you. Follow your intuition.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't be tempted to reveal your personal secrets. Deal with unfinished projects and chores. You will accomplish all you set out to do and still have time left over for relaxation.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. The key to a current situation can be resolved if you discuss your dilemma with someone you trust and respect.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Decisions regarding your financial future should take top priority. Make a list of everything you already have in place.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Deception is evident. Someone will keep important information from you. Don't believe everything that you are told or shown.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

9			1					
					8	5		6
			5	9	2	3		
		1	3				6	
4	2		7	8	6		1	5
	7				1	4		
		6	8	2	4			
1		5	9					
					5			3

					8			1
	9	6				8		7
				3	7		6	
6			2	1			3	4
		3				1		
5	1			4	3			9
	3		5	2				
2		4				9	5	
1			8					

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Video witness is the difference

Re: 'No indictment in NY police choke hold case' (Metro, Dec. 4)
You may be assured the very positive meeting/broadcast on the news of no indictment of anybody for anything about the cruel death ("homicide") of unarmed, benign Eric Garner on Staten Island committed by multiple NYC police would not have taken place if an onlooker had not taken an audio and video of the event, causing riots of empathic frustration and anger here and elsewhere. The new witness of cell-phone video and camera images in this and other cities has been instrumental in preventing the downplay of improper illegal actions of some police, and it has enabled the rescue of the rights of civilians in unjust confrontations, where the police have all the power and support of government.

SY SCHLEIMER, VIA EMAIL

Re: 'No indictment in NY police choke hold case' (Metro, Dec. 4)
Guilt or innocence is not the business of the grand jury. I know because I served on one for 30 days earlier this year. What happened in Staten Island to Eric Garner was a crime. What happened on Staten Island in the grand jury was a travesty.

LARRY D. FOWLER, VIA EMAIL

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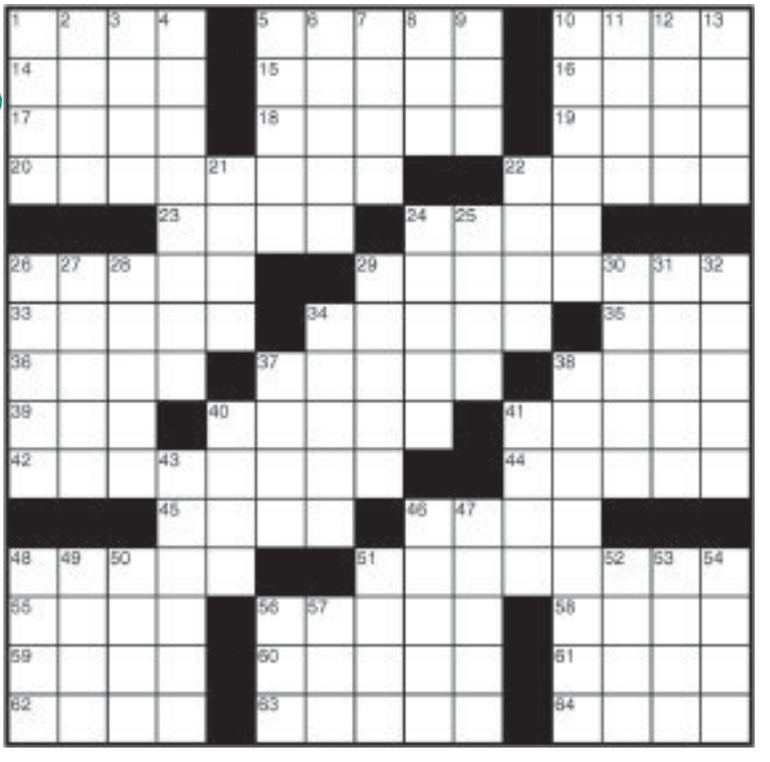
Crossword

Across
1 Surfeit
5 Guzzle
10 Lectern
14 PC system
15 Cousin's dad
16 Late summer fruit
17 An ellipse has two
18 Figure of speech
19 Bus alternative
20 Put in office
22 Wheeled platform
23 Jetty
24 Deportment
26 Vine support
29 Sioux garb
33 Unsinkable she
34 Ms. Zellweger
35 Thurman of "Gattaca"
36 Rock star, maybe
37 Bartletts' kin
38 Diploma holder
39 Apply a patch
40 Facts
41 Hot — sundae
42 Feted ones
44 Stair part
45 Heels
46 Sorrel or bay
48 Pipe sealer
51 Gave back
55 — Minor
56 Violin's middle
58 Overhang
59 Without fat
60 Michael Caine role
61 Lithe
62 Greek instrument
63 First American in orbit
64 Barn neighbor

Down
1 Muslim mystic
2 Prolific auth.
3 Involuntary movements
4 Election-night event (2 wds.)
5 Rather
6 Less than
7 Tart
8 Ziegfeld nickname
9 Not masc.
10 Chefs' wear
11 Sit-down occasion
12 Kettle handle
13 Monsieur's airport
21 Well-ventilated
22 Hockey feint
24 Chomp
25 Finishes the cupcakes
26 Noted quilt makers
27 Cheyenne meet
28 — up (inflated)
29 Defeats
30 Some Iraqis
31 Mind's-eye view
32 D.C. consumer advocate
34 Womanizers
37 Multiplied
38 Sir Alec --
40 Shallow container
41 Herr's wife
43 Gasoline rating
46 Violinist's need
47 In many cases
48 Yank
49 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
50 Industrial giant
51 Widespread
52 Surrealist painter
53 Like Lex Luthor
54 Audition tape
56 Shake a finger
57 More than most

Thursday's answer



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3 SPORTS

NHL

Rangers invade Detroit

The Rangers have been decidedly average through their first 24 games of the 2014-15 season as they own an 11-9-4 record heading into Saturday night's game at Detroit (7 p.m., MSG). The Rangers dumped the Red Wings at Madison Square Garden back on Nov. 5 with a 4-3 win in overtime. New York will be back home on Monday when it will tangle with Pittsburgh.

Watch online

Find video and recap of this weekend's Brooklyn Nets and New York Knicks games at: **Metro.us/sports.**

3 Storylines to watch as Giants face Titans

NFL. New York tries yet again to break out of its funk as it travels to Tennessee.

The Giants enter this weekend dealing with a 2014 rarity — actually being the better team, on paper, in a matchup.

As they prepare for the 2-10 Titans, the 3-9 Giants still aren't going into Tennessee as an overwhelming favorite. New York has holes everywhere and is trying to overcome debilitating injuries at numerous positions.

How they deal with the loss of starters and key contributors will be a major factor in seeing if they can get that winning feeling back again — an emotion that has avoided them since Oct. 5.

Metro takes a look at three key storylines to watch as Big Blue tries to end its miserable seven-game losing streak.

TONY WILLIAMS
@TBone8
sports@metro.us

ZACH METTENBERGER IS A SIXTH-SIXTH-ROUND PICK OUT OF LSU. GETTY IMAGES

1 Zach attack

Week 14 will be another encounter in which the Giants get to face a rookie quarterback who flashes potential, but is prone to turnovers. Tennessee signal caller Zach Mettenberger is reeling from a sprained AC joint in his right (throwing) shoulder, but said that he is "definitely playing." Despite being a rookie and being known to forcing throws (six picks in six games), Mettenberger is also a legitimate deep-threat passer with a big arm. He's currently ranked fourth in the NFL in percentage of attempted passes over 15 yards (25.8 percent of his 155 attempts), which shows he's willing to stretch opposing defenses. Conversely, that also means that the burgeoning passer is sometimes vulnerable to the big turnover. Whichever version of the gunslinger shows up will go a long way in determining the outcome.

2 Eli ain't the worst

Mettenberger's counterpart, Eli Manning, has actually had a very solid comeback campaign compared to last season. All of the critics want to focus his shortcomings — particularly last week's second half in Jacksonville where he was a big reason for the offense's mishaps. But looking deeper into the Giants' situation, a lot the offense's struggles could be attributed to injuries along the offensive line, at wide receiver and at running back. Manning has been forced to carry the offense for most of the season, but his 22:12 touchdown-to-interception rate and 63.2-percent completion mark are actually closer to the league's upper echelon than with the dregs. Simply put, the Giants could do a lot worse at the quarterback position this season, so look for Manning to have a bounce-back game against a Titans defense that ranks 30th overall and 25th against the pass.

ELI MANNING HAS THROWN 22 TOUCHDOWN PASSES THIS SEASON. GETTY IMAGES

3 Count on JPP to come up big

New York's defensive front four used to be among the most-feared outfits in the league. But it's been a long time since guys like Michael Strahan, Justin Tuck, and Osi Umenyiora harassed opposing passers.

Big Blue still has at least one star who can get after the quarterback, defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul, but he's the only Giants defensive lineman to rank in the top-50 of player efficiency, according to Advanced Football Analytics. Pierre-Paul trails only Houston All-Pro defensive end J.J. Watt in player efficiency, as he's registered 35 tackles, six sacks, six passes defensed, a forced fumble, and eight tackles for a loss.

While he's not the preeminent playmaker that many thought he'd be following his second season, Pierre-Paul could still be a major factor in disrupting the Titans' 29th-ranked offense (27th in passing), and in helping the Giants get back that winning feeling.

NFL weekend

Week 14 should make or break several playoff hopefuls. A look at the weekend slate:

- **Steelers at Bengals (-3)** It's a tough test on the road for Pittsburgh as it is currently in a logjam with five other wild card contenders.
- **Rams (-2.5) at Redskins** The revitalized Rams battle a bottom-feeder in Washington as they look to forge a miracle march toward the playoffs.
- **Panthers at Saints (-10)** Somehow, the 3-8-1 Panthers are just a game and a half behind the Saints in the division.
- **Ravens at Dolphins (-2.5)** The Ravens and Dolphins are both squads with wild card aspirations. The Ravens defense could give Ryan Tannehill a hard time under the warm winter sun of South Florida.
- **Colts (-3.5) at Browns** The world has been robbed of the chance to see Johnny Manziel run an NFL offense for an entire 60 minutes. Brian Hoyer has been officially named the starter for Week 14.
- **Buccaneers at Lions (-10)** The Lions looked like contenders on Thanksgiving and should have no problem joining the packed bunch of nine-plus-win teams after their home game against Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Drew Stanton and the Cardinals have dropped two games in a row. / GETTY IMAGES

- **Texans (-5) at Jaguars** Get this: J.J. Watt has more touchdowns this year than the likes of LeSean MCoy.
- **Bills at Broncos (-10)** The Broncos' ground game is peaking after gaining 214 yards in a win over Kansas City last week.
- **Chiefs at Cards (even)** What was unthinkable a few weeks back — the Cards not winning the NFC West — now seems likely.
- **Seahawks at Eagles (-1)** The Eagles are 6-0 at home, but can they score against the Legion of Boom?
- **49ers (-8) at Raiders** The 49ers aren't dead yet in the tight NFC West.
- **Patriots (-3.5) at Chargers** The Patriots typically play well after losses and Tom Brady is due for a 400-yard passing outing.

NFL

Vikings ready to pounce on Jets

The Vikings are coming off one of the more impressive wins of their 2014 season, a complete performance in a 31-13 win over the Panthers. And then there's the Jets, who've won just once since Week 1 and are coming off a frustrating loss to the Dolphins on Monday night in a game that they controlled until the end. Here are three things to watch Sunday (1 p.m., CBS):

1 More ground and pound

Don't think that Monday night's game against the Dolphins, where the Jets ran the ball 49 times for 277 yards, is an anomaly. Expect more of that this weekend in Minnesota. The Vikings are among the worst teams in the league against the run, allowing 123.8 yards per game. Given the success the Jets had running the ball in Monday night's loss, the gameplan has to call for more of the same.

2 Which leads us to Geno

Think that the Jets ran the ball as much as they did against Miami to mask the issues with quarterback Geno Smith, who was getting his first start since Week 8? It is a plausible theory as Smith has turnover issues and his pocket presence leaves plenty to be desired. The second-year quarterback says that he doesn't see this final month of the season as a tryout for next year. "I'm not thinking about that," Smith said. "It's a team game. We've got to go out there and win the game as a team."

TIGHT END KYLE RUDOLPH COULD HAVE A MONSTER DAY AGAINST THE JETS.

GETTY IMAGES

3 Getting defensive

It hasn't been a great year for the Jets defense, which in preseason was supposed to be among the best in the league. And while they're seventh in the league in total defense, the deficiencies in the secondary have hurt the team. "I think that [Ryan] has relied more on his front seven to really try to control the game," Vikings head coach Mike Zimmer said. "I think they were giving up some big plays earlier on in the year, and so it just seems like, I would never call Rex conservative, but he has been more careful with the back end a little more, maybe." KRISTIAN DYER

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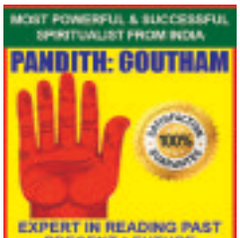

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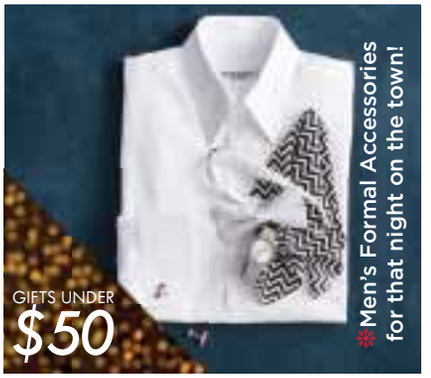
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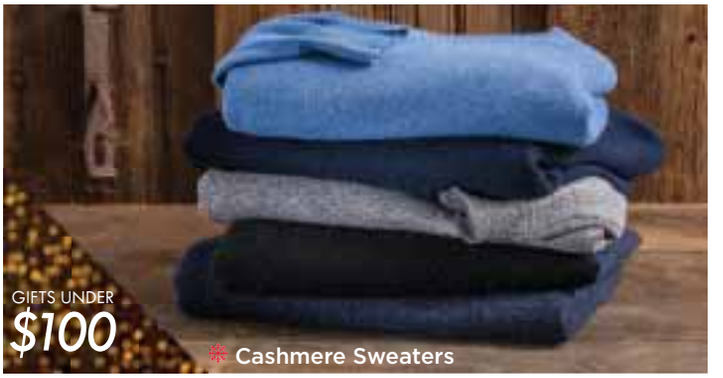
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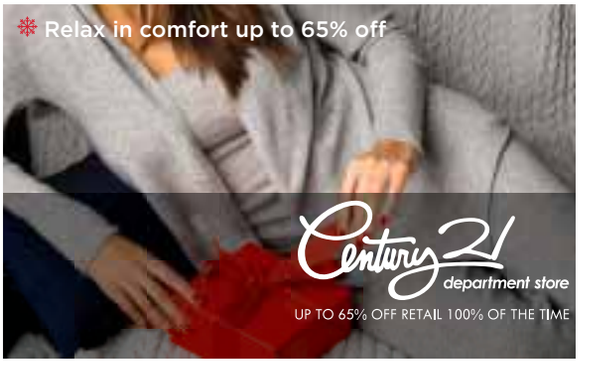
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